

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

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O R 200025Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4080

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL PORTO ALEGRE

USIS BELO HORIZONTE

UNCLAS BRASILIA 1521

STATE FOR S/PRS

DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. NESSON

USIA FOR ILA AND IOP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT LA

INFORMAL REMARKS OF SECSTATE AT AMERICAN EMBASSY BRASILIA

FOR INFO POSTS: FOR STAFF USE ONLY.

I WANT TO PRESENT TO YOU THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF
THE UNITED STATES.

H.L. MR. AMBASSADOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TWO YEARS AGO I
WAS IN HAWAII BEFORE I WAS MARRIED AND A YOUNG LADY CAME UP
TO ME WHILE I WAS SITTING ON THE BEACH AND SAID "I HEAR YOU
ARE A FASCINATING MAN. FASCINATE ME, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
TO SAY. AND, I TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD A LOT AND I TRY TO
TO MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND
PARTICULARLY THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN OUR VARIOUS POSTS AND
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I FIND IT HARD TO EXPRESS HOW IMPORTANT I CONSIDER YOUR

WORK TO BE. WERE I SAID I USUALLY, UH, THE THINGS THAT MOSTLY COME TO MY ATTENTION ARE THOSE THAT REQUIRE SOME IMMEDIATE DRASTIC ACTION, AND YET THE REAL WORK OF FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS. I HAVE A PSYCHIATRIST FRIEND WHO TOLD ME ONCE THAT 50 PERCENT OF HIS PATIENTS WOULD RECOVER IN A MONTH EVEN IF HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. SO HE STARTS WITH A 50 PERCENT CURAID, AND I THINK A LOT UH, THERE IS SOMETHING LIKE THAT TRUE OF MANY FOREIGN POLICY CRISES. MOST OF THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS HAVE A TENDENCY TO SOLVE THEMSELVES, AND I MUST SAY THAT BILL ROGERS IS SO CONVINCED OF THAT THAT HE RARELY LETS ME DO ANYTHING THAT DEALS WITH THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION.

THE -- WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE DAY TO DAY ATTENTION TO THE LONG-TERM AND MIDDLE-TERM TRENDS IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. NOW HERE YOU ARE IN A REALLY DECISIVELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY. IT IS THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT IS THE ONE THAT IS CLOSEST TO THE STATUS OF FULL DEVELOPMENT, IT IS CERTAIN TO BE A MAJOR POWER IN THE WORLD BEFORE THIS CENTURY IS OVER, IT IS A TRADITIONAL FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, AND YET THERE ARE A LOT OF ADJUSTMENTS WE HAVE TO MAKE IN OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS, AND HOW WE WORK OUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH A COUNTRY LIKE THIS IS VERY MUCH AFFECTED, FIRST, BY THE KIND OF WORK YOU

DO HERE, SECONDLY, BY THE KIND OF ANALYSIS YOU SEND BACK WHICH I DO READ WITH GREAT INTEREST, AND WHICH REALLY AFFECT THE DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS THAT HAVE TO BE MADE. I HAVE ENORMOUS RESPECT FOR YOUR AMBASSADOR. HE WAS, WHEN I WAS ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, AND HE WAS WHAT WERE YOU?) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HE STOOD UP TO ME WITH GREAT DETERMINATION AND I HAVE RESPECTED HIM FOR THAT EVER SINCE. HE'S DONE, IN MY VIEW, A VERY DISTINGUISHED JOB HERE, AND AGAIN I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE ALL DOING. AND THERE'S ANOTHER PROBLEM. RIGHT NOW IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU READ ABOUT THE DISPUTES BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE DISPUTES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. I THINK ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT HAS APPEARED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS IS THAT THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR INTEGRITY. THEY'VE DONE THEIR JOB, THEY'VE ASKED WHAT THE NATIONAL INTEREST IS AND HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THAT,

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THEY'VE BEEN PROFESSIONALS, AND THEY'VE ENABLED US TO STEER OUR AFFAIRS IN WHAT I HOPE WILL BE SEEN TO BE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIRECTION. SO I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOUR AMBASSADOR GAVE ME A CHANCE TO MEET YOU AND I AM SORRY I KEPT YOU ALL HERE SO LATE, AND I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MET YOU. THE ONLY COMPLAINT I HAVE IS I WISH THE DESIGN OF THIS BUILDING WERE A LITTLE BIT MORE ARTISTIC, BUT THAT ISN'T (DROWNED OUT BY

LAUGHTER).
CRIMMINS

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